

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present paper, Applicants will have elected, with traverse, the invention of Species II, defined in Figures 4 and 5 and claimed in claims 1-24, 26, 28-38, 40, and 45-54 with claims 1 and 6-14 being generic.

In the Official Action, the Examiner required an election among five species shown in a first embodiment of Figures 1-3; a second embodiment of Figures 4 and 5; a third embodiment of Figure 6; a fourth embodiment of Figure 7; and a fifth embodiment of Figure 8. The Examiner indicated that none of claims are generic.

Initially Applicants respectfully assert that at least claims 1 and 6-14 are generic. More specifically, claims 1 and 6-14 read on each of the embodiments shown in figures 1-8. Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse the above Election of Species Requirement and submit that it is inappropriate.

Applicants note that, although the various claims recite some different features, this alone is an inadequate basis to render the species restrictable for examination purposes. As set forth in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's guidelines in MPEP § 803, the Examiner "must provide reasons and/or examples to support conclusions," which were not provided by the Examiner. Additionally, the Examiner has not set forth evidence of a serious burden by appropriate explanation, pursuant to the guidelines set forth in MPEP §803. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his requirement and find that there would not appear to be a "serious burden" on the Office in examining claims directed to the non-elected invention.

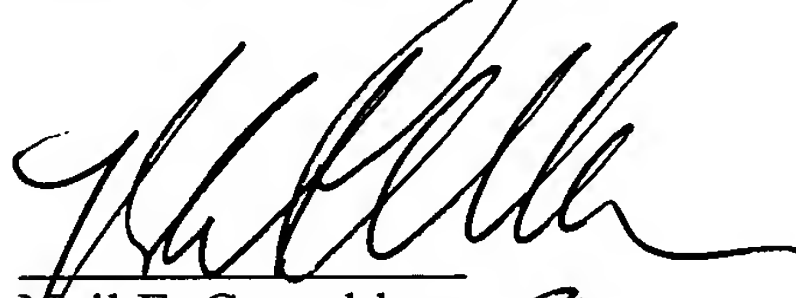
For all these reasons, and consistent with the Office Policy as set forth in MPEP § 803, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the

Election Requirement in the present application. Accordingly, the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement is believed to be improper and has been traversed for the reasons set forth above.

Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicants have elected with traverse the Species disclosed in the invention of Species II of Figs. 4 and 5, comprising claims 1-24, 26, 28-38, 40, and 45-54, in the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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